

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing abiotic stress tolerance of a plant, a plant part, a plant cell or a yeast, comprising the steps of introducing a genetic modification in said plant, plant part, plant cell or yeast and selecting for modulated expression in said plant, plant part, plant cell or yeast of a nucleic acid encoding a protein, and/or modulated activity in a plant, a plant cell or a yeast or yeast of a protein, which protein

(a) comprises the sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10;

(b) comprises a sequence having at least 50 %, alternatively 60%, 70%, 80%, preferably 90%, more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to the full length sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10;

(c) comprises a substitution variant or insertion variant of (a);

(d) according to any of (a) to (c), comprises substitutions with corresponding naturally or non-naturally altered amino acids;

(e) comprises a functional fragment of any of (a) to (d),
said The use of a protein according to claim 2 for modifying abiotic stress tolerance in yeast, a plant, plant part or plant cell, wherein said abiotic stress [(is)]being at least one of temperature stress, osmotic stress, drought stress salt stress or oxidative stress, preferably said abiotic stress is temperature stress, more preferably said abiotic stress is cold stress.

16. (Original) The use of a protein, or a functional fragment thereof, chosen from the group of

- (i) proteins belonging to the family of CHMP proteins;
- (ii) proteins comprising a SEC14 domain and exhibiting lipid transfer activity;
- (iii) CRYO5 like plant proteins comprising a RING finger domain, a serine rich domain and an acid domain which comprises the signature
"HDQHRDMLDIDNMSYEELLAERIG", in which no more than 6 substitutions may occur;

for modifying abiotic stress tolerance in yeast, a plant, plant part or plant cell, wherein said abiotic stress is at least one of temperature stress, osmotic stress, drought stress salt stress or oxidative stress, preferably said abiotic stress is temperature stress, more preferably said abiotic stress is cold stress.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein
- (a) comprising the sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10;
 - (b) comprising a sequence having at least
i[[.]] 76 %, alternatively 80%, preferably 90%, more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to the full length sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 2;
ii[[.]] 55 %, alternatively 60%, 70%, 80%, preferably 90%, more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to the full length sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 4;

iii[.]] 90.5 %, alternatively 90.6%, 90.7%, 90.8%, 90.9%, preferably 91%, 92%, 93%, 94% more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to the full length sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 6;

iv[.]] 50 %, alternatively 60%, 70%, 80%, preferably 90%, more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to the full length sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 8;

v[.]] 50 %, alternatively 60%, 70%, 80%, preferably 90%, more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to the full length sequence as given in SEQ ID NO 10;

- (c) comprising a substitution variant or insertion variant of (a);
- (d) according to any of (a) to (c), comprising substitutions with corresponding naturally or non-naturally altered amino acids.

19. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein according to claim [[19]]18, the complement thereof or a part thereof.

Claims 20-26. (Canceled)